

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, January 23, 1879, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Tremont House, Boston.
Thursday, Jan. 23rd, 1879. Dear May:

I have not yet had dinner and I have to leave for Salem immediately after satisfying the cravings of nature. As I may not be able to catch the mail in Salem — I send you these few lines before I start. I forgot to tell you last night of the gratifying results of experiments with the old form of telephone shown in my patent of 1876. The instruments talk perfectly and are only inferior in volume to the latest forms of instrument. Mr. Renwick and Mr. Chauncey Smith have been delighted with them. We have been trying experiments of all sorts for Mr. Renwick's satisfaction today — and all have been successful. We used the instruments on a real line between Mr. Chauncey Smith's office and Mr. William's workshop this afternoon.

The Directors of the Bell Telephone Company met today and passed important resolutions completely revolutionizing the management of the Company. As I had no means of knowing your father's views — I abstained from voting as his representative — and contented myself with acting as mere reporter of all that passed. It seems that the Company would have been pounced upon in Chicago as Bankrupt tomorrow if Judge Bradley had not advanced \$1500 to be paid to employees in Chicago tomorrow. Other payments are due immediately — and altogether the Company seems in a bad way. I cannot do more than allude to this now but will write Mr. Hubbard full particulars from Salem tonight.

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Mr. Renwick is to be put under examination tomorrow, Friday, and I suppose I must wait on. I have not heard one word from you yet — and shall look out for a little note when I come into town in the morning.

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My darling pet I want to be back with you. I feel so useless here at the present time. I feel that there has been no real need for my presence here, and I am anxious to return.

Love to Grandpapa, Grandmamma, Auntie Gertrude and Auntie Berta, and a heartfelt for yourself and little Elsie.

Your loving husband, Alec. P. S. I sent you copies of Illustrated London News and Graphic today. Hope you will receive them safely. Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1509 R. I. Ave., Washington, D. C.